SPSW1002 - Social Issues in the Human Services

Course Coordinator: Dr Alex Beveridge
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West Campus: Callaghan
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Email-Alex.Beveridge@Newcastle.edu.au

*Consultation Appointment Times: Monday 11.00 AM and Wednesday 10.00 AM or other times by arrangement

Semester 2 CALLAGHAN CAMPUS 2008

CTS information downloaded 4th July 2008
Date Issued: ACADEMIC WEEK 1 Thursday July 24th Semester 2, 2008

Signature:
SPSW1002 - Social Issues in the Human Services
Course Outline

Course Coordinator; Dr Alexander Beveridge
Semester 2 - 2008

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<th>Unit Weighting</th>
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<tr>
<td>Teaching Methods</td>
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<td>Email Discussion Group</td>
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<td>Lecture</td>
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<td>Experience Based Learning</td>
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<td>Tutorial</td>
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Brief Course Description
This foundation course explores social issues and social problems and critically analyses government and community welfare responses. This involves analysing programs, policies and interventions which deal with contemporary social issues and includes case studies from some of the following areas: children and families, youth, disability, alcohol and drug dependency, sexuality and gender, ageing, social exclusion and marginalisation.

Contact Hours
On-Campus
Lecture for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
Tutorial for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term

ONLINE-Not Available 2008
Email Discussion Group for 2 Hours per Week for the Full Term
Self Directed Learning for 1 Hour per Week for the Full Term
On campus students participate in lecture and tutorial.
Distance Education Students participate in email discussion group and self directed learning.

Learning Materials/Texts
A Book of Readings Volumes 1 and 2 are to be purchased from UniPrint-Lower Level, Student Union Building Shortland Campus.
Course Objectives
1. Be able to critically analyse the construction of social issues and social problems.
2. Explore government and community welfare responses to identified problems.
3. Understand the policy making process, how history informs current policy, the structure(s) within which policy is located, and how to participate in the policy making and social change process.
4. Develop an awareness of social, professional and personal values, how they differ across cultures, class and social contexts, and their influences on individual and community responses to issues.
5. Skills in writing academic essays, reports, tutorial presentations, research, theoretical and methodological skills.

Course Content
1. Major Frameworks and competing explanations.
3. Social actors in social problems.
4. The Government and corporate power.
5. World population and global inequality.
7. Threats to the environment.
8. Problems of inequality including poverty and wealth; race and ethnicity; gender, sexualities and sexual practices; age; the economy of work; education; families and intimate relationships; health care and medicine; crime and delinquency; substance abuse;
9. Evaluating social programs.
10. Strategies and tools for social change.

Assessment Items

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Essays / Written Assignments</th>
<th>On campus and distance education students: Essay (2500 words) 60%.</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Essays / Written Assignments</td>
<td>Distance Ed students only: Minor Assignment (1500 words) 40%</td>
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</table>

On campus students: Group Tasks. These will be non-graded assessment items (satisfactory/unsatisfactory result.) Students must successfully complete these assessment items to pass the course. Students will be given advice and assistance to meet the criteria for these tasks as published in the course outline.

Distance Education students: Contribution to Discussion Group on the course Blackboard site. These will be non graded assessment items (satisfactory/unsatisfactory result). Students must successfully complete these assessment items to pass the course.

Presentations - Individual

On campus students: Individual Seminar Presentation (1500 words) 40%.
Assumed Knowledge
SPSW1001 Introduction to Human Service and Community Welfare.

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Callaghan Campus Timetable</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>SPSW1002</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SOCIAL ISSUES IN THE HUMAN SERVICES</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Enquiries: School of Humanities and Social Science</td>
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<td><strong>Semester 2 - 2008</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Lecture and Tutorial Thursday 14:00 - 15:00 [SRLT1]</td>
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<td>Thursday 15:00 - 17:00 [W308]</td>
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<td>Thursday 11:00 - 13:00 [GP3-24]</td>
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<td>Thursday 9:00 - 11:00 [GP2-12-14]</td>
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**Written Assignment Presentation and Submission Details**

Students are required to submit assessment items by the due date. Late assignments will be subject to the penalties described as follows:

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted more than ten days after the due date will be awarded zero marks.

Hard copy submission:

- **Type your assignments**: All work must be typewritten in **12 or 14 point black font**. Leave a wide margin for marker's comments, use 1.5 or double spacing, and include page numbers.
- **Word length**: The word limit of all assessment items should be strictly followed – 10% above or below is acceptable, otherwise penalties may apply.
- **Proof read your work** because spelling, grammatical and referencing mistakes will be penalised.
- **Staple the pages** of your assignment together (do not use pins or paper clips).
- **University Assessment Item Coversheet**: All assignments must be submitted with the University coversheet available at: [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/)
- **By arrangement with the relevant lecturer**, assignments may be submitted at any Student Hub located at:
  - Level 3, Shortland Union, Callaghan
  - Level 2, Student Services Centre, Callaghan
  - Ground Floor, University House, City
  - Opposite Café Central, Ourimbah
- **Date-stamping assignments**: All students must date-stamp their own assignments using the machine provided at each Student Hub. If mailing an assignment, this should be address to the relevant School. Mailed assignments are accepted from the date posted, confirmed by a Post Office date-stamp; they are also date-stamped upon receipt by Schools.

**NB**: Not all of these services may apply to the Port Macquarie Campus.
- Do not fax or email assignments: Only hard copies of assignments will be considered for assessment. Inability to physically submit a hard copy of an assignment by the deadline due to other commitments or distance from campus is an unacceptable excuse.
- Keep a copy of all assignments: It is the student’s responsibility to produce a copy of their work if the assignment goes astray after submission. Students are advised to keep updated back-ups in electronic and hard copy formats.

**Academic Integrity**

Integrity, honesty, and a respect for knowledge and truth are the bases of all academic endeavours in teaching, learning and research. To preserve the quality of learning, both for the individual and for others enrolled, the University imposes severe sanctions on activities that undermine academic integrity.

There are two major categories of academic dishonesty:

(a) Academic Fraud, in which a false representation is made to gain an unjust advantage by, for example,

- the falsification of data
- reusing one’s own work that has been submitted previously and counted towards another course (without permission)
- misconduct in Examinations

(b) Plagiarism, which is the presentation of the thoughts or works of another as one's own. Plagiarism includes

- copying, paraphrasing, or using someone else’s ideas without appropriate acknowledgement
- failure to identify direct quotation through the use of quotation marks
- working with others without permission and presenting the resulting work as though it were completed independently.

Please note that aiding another student to plagiarise (e.g. by lending assignments to other students) is also a violation of the Plagiarism Policy and may invoke a penalty. For further information on the University policy on plagiarism, please refer to the Policy on Student Academic Integrity at the following link - [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000608.html)
The University has established a software plagiarism detection system called Turnitin. When you submit assessment items please be aware that for the purpose of assessing any assessment item the University may –

- Reproduce this assessment item and provide a copy to another member of the University; and/or
- Communicate a copy of this assessment item to a plagiarism checking service (which may then retain a copy of the item on its database for the purpose of future plagiarism checking).
- Submit the assessment item to other forms of plagiarism checking

**Online copy submission to Turnitin**

In addition to hard copy submission, students are required to submit an electronic version of the following assignments to Turnitin via the course Blackboard website available @ [www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/](http://www.blackboard.newcastle.edu.au/)

**Major Essay  60%  -minimum 2,500 word limit-exploration and critique to be submitted Academic Week 14 Thursday November 6th.**

Prior to final submission, all students have the opportunity to submit *one draft* of their assignment to Turnitin to self-check their referencing.

**Assignments will not be marked until both hard copy and online versions have been submitted. Marks may be deducted for late submission of either version.**

**Penalties for Late Assignments**

Assignments submitted after the due date, without an approved extension of time will be penalised by the **reduction of 5% of the possible maximum mark** for the assessment item for each day or part day that the item is late. Weekends count as one day in determining the penalty. Assessment items submitted **more than ten days** after the due date will be awarded **zero marks**.


**Special Circumstances**

Students wishing to apply for Special Circumstances or Extension of Time should apply online. Refer - ‘Special Circumstances Affecting Assessment Items - Procedure 000641’ available @ [http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html](http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000641.html)
No Assignment Re-submission

Students who have failed an assignment are not permitted to revise and resubmit it in this course. However, students are always welcome to contact their Tutor, Lecturer or Course Coordinator to make a consultation time to receive individual feedback on their assignments.

Re-marks & Moderations

A student may only request a re-mark of an assessment item before the final result – in the course to which the assessment item contributes – has been posted. If a final result in the course has been posted, the student must apply under ‘Procedures for Appeal Against a Final Result’ (Refer - http://www.newcastle.edu.au/study/forms/).

Students concerned at the mark given for an assessment item should first discuss the matter with the Course Coordinator. If subsequently requesting a re-mark, students should be aware that as a result of a re-mark the original mark may be increased or reduced. The case for a re-mark should be outlined in writing and submitted to the Course Coordinator, who determines whether a re-mark should be granted, taking into consideration all of the following:

1. whether the student had discussed the matter with the Course Coordinator
2. the case put forward by the student for a re-mark
3. the weighting of the assessment item and its potential impact on the student’s final mark or grade
4. the time required to undertake the re-mark
5. the number of original markers, that is,
   a) whether there was a single marker, or
   b) if there was more than one marker whether there was agreement or disagreement on the marks awarded.

A re-mark may also be initiated at the request of the Course Coordinator, the Head of School, the School Assessment Committee, the Faculty Progress and Appeals Committee or the Pro Vice-Chancellor. Remarks may be undertaken by:

1. the original marker; or
2. an alternate internal marker; or
3. an alternate external marker (usually as a consequence of a grievance procedure).

Moderation may be applied when there is a major discrepancy (or perceived discrepancy) between:

1. the content of the course as against the content or nature of the assessment item(s)
2. the content or nature of the assessment item(s) as against those set out in the Course Outline
3. the marks given by a particular examiner and those given by another in the same course
4. the results in a particular course and the results in other courses undertaken by the same students.

For further detail on this University policy refer - ‘Re-marks and Moderations - Procedure 000769’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/policylibrary/000769.html

Return of Assignments

Students can collect assignments from a nominated Student Hub during office hours. Students will be informed during class which Hub to go to and the earliest date that assignments will be available for collection. Students must present their student identification card to collect their assignment.

Preferred Referencing Style
In this course, it is recommended that you use the Harvard in-text referencing system (similar to the APA system) for referencing sources of information used in assignments. Inadequate or incorrect reference to the work of others may be viewed as plagiarism and result in reduced marks or failure.

An in-text citation names the author of the source, gives the date of publication, and for a direct quote includes a page number, in parentheses. At the end of the paper, a list of references provides publication information about the source; the list is alphabetised by authors' last names (or by titles for works without authors). For further information on referencing and general study skills refer - ‘Infoskills’ available @ www.newcastle.edu.au/services/library/tutorials/infoskills/index.html

Student Representatives

Student Representatives are a major channel of communication between students and the School. Contact details of Student Representatives can be found on School websites.

Refer - ‘Information for Student Representatives on Committees’ available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/service/committees/student_reps/index.html

Student Communication

Students should discuss any course related matters with their Tutor, Lecturer, or Course Coordinator in the first instance and then the relevant Discipline or Program Convenor. If this proves unsatisfactory, they should then contact the Head of School if required. Contact details can be found on the School website.

Essential Online Information for Students

Information on Class and Exam Timetables, Tutorial Online Registration, Learning Support, Campus Maps, Careers information, Counselling, the Health Service and a range of free Student Support Services is available @ http://www.newcastle.edu.au/currentstudents/index.html

STUDENTS WITH A DISABILITY OR CHRONIC ILLNESS

The University is committed to providing a range of support services for students with a disability or chronic illness.

If you have a disability or chronic illness which you feel may impact on your studies, please feel free to discuss your support needs with your lecturer or course coordinator.

Disability Support may also be provided by the Student Support Service (Disability). Students must be registered to receive this type of support. To register please contact the Disability Liaison Officer on 02 4921 5766, or via email at: student-disability@newcastle.edu.au

As some forms of support can take a few weeks to implement it is extremely important that you discuss your needs with your lecturer, course coordinator or Student Support Service staff at the beginning of each semester.

For more information related to confidentiality and documentation please visit the Student Support Service (Disability) website at: www.newcastle.edu.au/services/disability
Assessment Items

1. Seminar Presentation 40% -minimum 1,500 word limit summary to be submitted one week after presentation.

2. Essay 60% -minimum 2,500 word limit-exploration and critique to be submitted Academic Week 14 Thursday November 6th

3. Ungraded Group Task - Satisfactory/Unsatisfactory

Task 1: Seminar Presentation-
[*Readings are available for purchase at UniPrint NUSA services (East Campus-located northern side of student union building Callaghan): note there are 2 books (a) covering: Weeks 1-7, and (b) covering: Weeks 8-13].

Students will allocate themselves to small teams who will be responsible for critically examining one of the set readings and will present their review to the large group. It is an expectation that the presentation is an engaging process, not merely “reading from prepared notes”. Students are encouraged to consider ways of constructing activities and small group tasks which are linked to the readings. This more active approach to learning (through engaging peers in an experiential task) will hopefully encourage greater connection to the material under examination. Additionally, students are asked to construct a set of questions as an anchor point to the material under discussion and as a tool to stimulate discussion.

Summary notes compiled to support the seminar are to be submitted one week after the presentation [minimum 1,500 words].

Assessment Criteria

- Engagement with audience
- Creativity and ability to devise novel and engaging materials
- Coherent Communication of Ideas and Debates to peers
- Capacity to generate critical inquiry and broad discussion
- Ability to foster positive interpersonal interactions
- Demonstrated Reading and personal reflection
- Capacity for Analysis and Critical Thinking
- Synthesis and integration of Wide Literature
- Clarity and Coherence of Summary Notes
- Organisation and Presentation of summary paper
**Task 2: Major Essay** : Word limit Maximum 2,500

**Due Date: Academic Week 14 Thursday November 6th**

Students are asked to critically examine a contemporary social issue from a Social Constructionist framework (potential topics can be chosen from areas of personal interest, current media debates, themes raised during the course, and policy concerns such as those interrogated in semester 1 etc).

Students may choose to compare and or contrast one other major analytic approach (i.e., contrasts and comparisons can be drawn from Structural-functional, Social-conflict perspectives or Feminist critiques.

This written assignment will be considered from the following criteria:

- Demonstrated reading, reflection and appropriate referencing,
- Capacity to apply a Social Constructionist framework, and general understanding of other explanatory models,
- Critical thinking, synthesis and analysis of issues,
- Clarity and coherence of argument and development of debates,
- Presentation, Organisation and Structure of the paper.

**Group Task-Ungraded [Weeks 12 & 13]**

“Problem-Based Scenario”

*Students are to assume that, as members of the Newcastle Youth Interagency Network, they have been asked to develop a brief presentation that can be made to various groups in the local community. The purpose of the presentation is to challenge the social constructions of young people who commit crimes and responses to youth crime. Alternatively, students may wish to explore another area of concern relevant to youth which encompasses the broad realm of Youth Culture, Sexualities and Gender, Rights, Citizenship and Social Inclusion.*

**The presentation needs to be creative and informative.**

The presentation should include:

- an overview and critique of issues relating to youth crime and young offenders;
- the range of new approaches to deal with youth crime and young
people who have committed crime, including an explanation of case management approaches and strengths-based ideas focused on capacity building;
♦ a critical review of the opportunities, constraints and dilemmas of current approaches to dealing with youth crime;
♦ examples of social constructions of youth crime and contemporary law and order approaches as social problems, and arguments to challenge each of the examples.
♦ critically explore and apply a Social Constructionist critique to a contemporary issue relevant to Youth Culture, Sexualities, Gender, Rights, Citizenship and Social Inclusion.

Students will work in small groups of 4 - 5 to prepare a 15-minute presentation as outlined above.

Assumed Knowledge

SPSW1001 or equivalent

Callaghan Campus Timetable

SPSW1002
SOCIAL ISSUES in the HUMAN SERVICES

Semester 2 -

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<tr>
<th>Lecture and Tutorial</th>
<th>Thursday</th>
<th>14.00 - 15.00</th>
<th>[SRLT1]</th>
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<tr>
<td>Or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>11.00 - 13.00</td>
<td>[GP3-24]</td>
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<tr>
<td>Or</td>
<td>Thursday</td>
<td>9.00 – 11.00</td>
<td>[ GP2-12-14]</td>
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SPSW1002 SOCIAL ISSUES AND THE HUMAN SERVICES

LECTURE:
RESOURCE SESSIONS

Thursday 14:00 - 15:00
Room SRLT1

Week 1
24th July

Week 2
31st July
Trigger Film: “Bang-Bang-You’re Dead.”

Week 3
7th August
Lecture: Youth Work Practitioners: Challenges and Debates.

Week 4
14th August

Week 5
21st August
Anti-Oppressive Models of Youth Work.

Week 6
28th August
Youth Suicide and Depression: Case Management.

Week 7
4th September
Mental Health: Social Policy Initiatives and Responses.
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<th>Week 8</th>
<th>Trigger Film: “Girl Interrupted.”</th>
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<td>11th September</td>
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<table>
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<th>Week 9</th>
<th>Social Construction of Gender.</th>
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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 10</th>
<th>Sexuality, Gender and Disability Issues.</th>
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<tr>
<th>RECESS</th>
<th>Self-Directed Learning: Completion of Major Essay for submission Academic Week 14 Thursday November 6th Deadline.</th>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Week 11</th>
<th>Sexuality, Gender and Health Services</th>
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<td>16th October</td>
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<th>Small Group Work Tasks: Media Representations and Rights Activism.</th>
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<th>Small Group Work Tasks: Media Representations and Rights Activism.</th>
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<td>30th October</td>
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**SEMINAR READINGS**

*NOTE: STUDENTS ARE REQUIRED TO ANCHOR ONE READING ONLY THE OTHER MATERIAL IS FOR ADDITIONAL RESEARCH AND IS RELEVANT AS BACKGROUND TO THE INDIVIDUAL ASSESSMENT TASK.*

**Week 1. July 24th 2008**


**Week 2. July 31st**


**Week 3. August 7th**


**Week 4. August 14th**


**Week 5. August 21st**


**Week 6. August 28th**


**Week 7. September 4th**


**READINGS WEEKS 8–14**

**n.b. Second Book of Readings Required**

**Week 8. September 11th**

**Week 9. September 18th**


**Week 10. September 25TH**


   Chapter 8, pp. 128 -173, Feminism and the Politics of Sexuality.

**SEMESTER 2 RECESS Monday 29th September – Friday 10th October**

**Week 11. October16th**


**Week 12. October 23rd**


**Week 13. October 30th**


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<th>Grading guide</th>
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<tr>
<td><strong>49% or less</strong></td>
<td><strong>Fail (FF)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>50% to 64%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Pass (P)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>65% to 74%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Credit (C)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>75% to 84%</strong></td>
<td><strong>Distinction (D)</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>85% upwards</strong></td>
<td><strong>High Distinction (HD)</strong></td>
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